

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:PTLINCOLN,JR.:EBS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 258841

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, CH, US

SUBJECT: FERROUS SCRAP

REFS: (A) PEKING 1977

(B) STATE 242766

(C) 196158

TOKYO PLS PASS EA/PRCM DIRECTOR ARMSTRONG.

1. DEPTOFF PHONED PRCLO COMMERCIAL OFFICER T'UNG CHIH-KUANG ON NOVEMBER 22 IN AN ATTEMPT TO ELICIT PRCLO'S VIEWS ON CONTINGENCY RESERVE ALLOCATION. REFERRING TO USLO'S NOVEMBER 12 DISCUSSION WITH MINMETALS ON SCRAP, DEPTOFF INDICATED THAT USG HAD CONCLUDED FROM REMARKS OF MINMETALS OFFICIAL THAT PRC IS NOT PREPARED TO UTILIZE FOURTH QUARTER CONTINGENCY SCRAP ALLOCATION. THEREFORE, IN VIEW OF CONTINUING TIGHTDEMANDSITUATION FOR THIS COMMODITY, DEPARTMENT IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF MAKING THIS SCRAP AVAILABLE TO OTHER USERS. DEPTOFF ASKED WHETHER PRCLO OFFICER

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WISHED TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS ADDING THAT, IF NOT, HE HOPED

THAT PRCLO WOULD MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UTILIZATION OF CONTINGENCY ALLOCATION AVAILABLE TO US BY MONDAY NOVEMBER 25.

2. T'UNG RESPONDED THAT THE PRCLO HAD REPORTED THE ARMSTRONG-CHANG CONVERSATION (OF NOVEMBER 1; REFTEL B) TO PEKING AND HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REPLY. HE ADDED THAT

PRCLO COUNSELOR CHANG HAD MADE PRC POSITION CLEAR IN EARLIER CONVERSATION IN AUGUST (REFTEL C). AFTER A BRIEF FURTHER DISCUSSION ALONG FAMILIAR LINES, T'UNG FINALLY SAID THAT WHILE "HE PERSONALLY" COULD UNDERSTAND DEPTOFF'S POINT OF VIEW, MINMETALS VIEWED THE MATTER STRICTLY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE IN TERMS OF CONTRACT FULFILLMENT.

3. FYI COMMERCE DEPARTMENT DID NOT RECEIVE ANY VALID APPLICATIONS FOR REGULAR PRC QUOTA BY NOVEMBER 15 DEADLINE. IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM FANG HSIN-MIN'S AND T'UNG'S REMARKS, THAT PRC DOES NOT INTEND TO USE CONTINGENCY ALLOCATION, AND OUR LIMITED CONTACTS WITH U.S. SCRAP EXPORTERS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO OFFERS TO SELL. DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF REALLOCATING TO OTHER USERS ANY UNUSED FOURTH QUARTER CONTINGENCY RESERVE ALLOCATIONS FOR PRC (AND OTHERS) ONCE DECEMBER 6 FILING DEADLINE PASSED. INGERSOLL

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